
CARING FOR YOUR PLANTED SEEDLINGS

Watering

Be sure the root zone is saturated every 7-10 days during dry periods. If the soil around the seedling subsides after watering, add soil to restore the grade. Deep watering once a week is better than light watering more often.

Controlling weeds

Control weed competition near seedlings for two to three years. You may want to use shallow cultivation or certain herbicides to control competing weeds and grasses. Be sure to follow label directions. You also can use weed barrier cloth to minimize weeds and grasses and reduce the loss of soil moisture.

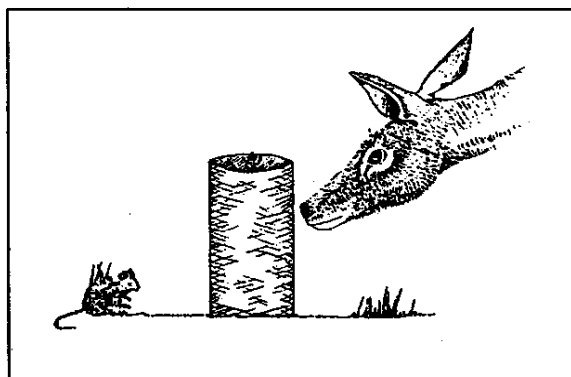
Mulching and fertilizing

Mulching with a 1-3 inch layer of organic matter will help hold soil moisture and reduce weed competition. Fertilizing may be beneficial, but it is not necessary. If you decide to fertilize, use formulated, slow-release fertilizers designed for seedlings. Be careful not to over fertilize during the first growing season. A small amount of fertilizer can burn the seedling before its root system is established.

Protecting plants from wildlife

Deer and rodent barriers may be necessary in heavily browsed areas. Some plant species are more susceptible to wildlife.

Protection from deer and rodents can get expensive. Cages may cost up to four times what you paid for the seedling. Repellent powders, tablets and liquids are also available, but their results are mixed.



For more information, contact Lone Peak Conservation Center, (801) 571-0900, or your local Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands office.



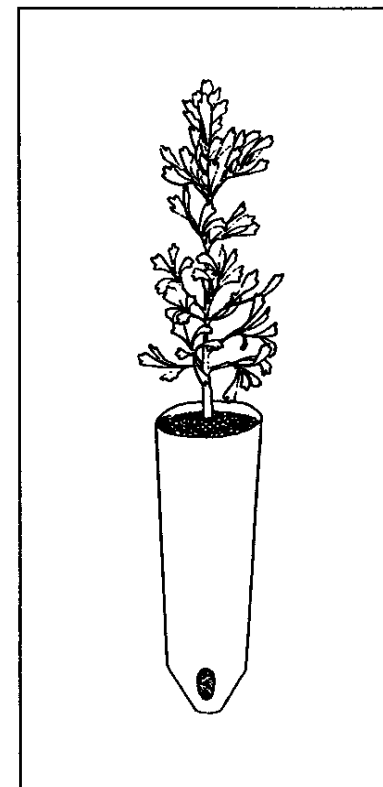
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PLANTING FOR SURVIVAL

Containerized Seedlings



**STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES**
Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands

PLANTING CONTAINERIZED SEEDLINGS

When to plant

It is best to plant in early spring or early fall when the probability for soil moisture is high and a variety of seedling species is available.

What to plant

Consider soil type, elevation, existing plant communities, availability of water and planting objectives when planning your project.

Storing containerized seedlings

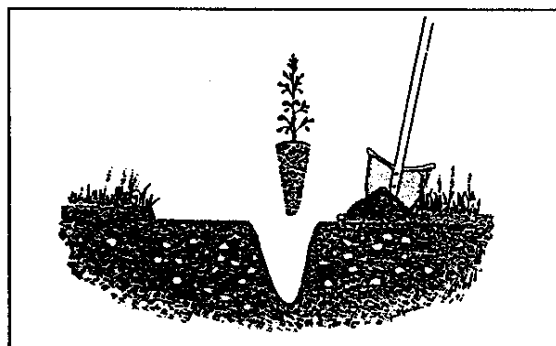
Your seedlings will be delivered in convenient storage trays. Store them in a cool, shady place such as an unheated garage, basement or cellar for up to two weeks.

To check a seedling's soil moisture, push your finger down into the soil or pull the soil plug out of its plastic tube and feel for moisture at the bottom.

When necessary, water each seedling until water drains from the tube bottom. It is important to keep the planting soil in the tubes moist.

Preparing the site

Clear an area two to three feet in diameter down to bare soil for each seedling. This reduces the number of grasses and weeds competing for moisture.



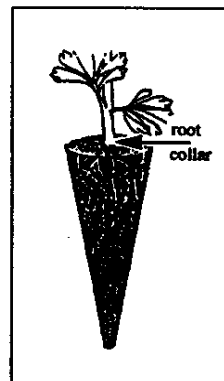
The planting hole

When you are ready to plant your seedlings, dig holes deep enough to accommodate each plug's root mass and soil. Avoid digging all holes prior to planting because they will fill with loose soil and dry out.

Planting depth

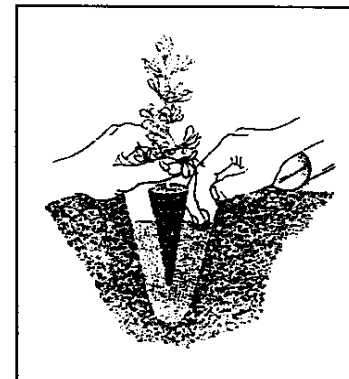
The soil grade of your planting site should be level with the root collar. The root collar is the point where the original soil line or grade contacts the stem.

It is easy to identify the root collar in containerized seedlings because nursery soil is present.



Filling the planting hole

Suspend the soil plug and root mass in the hole, holding the root collar at the soil level or surface grade. Fill the planting hole one-third full with soil. Pack soil around the roots firmly with your hands to eliminate air pockets and soil settling. Add soil until the hole is two-thirds full. Continue to pack soil around roots with your hands. Avoid large rocks, leaf litter and woody material as fill.



Finishing the job

Finish filling the hole, firmly packing the soil in place with your hands. It is important to hold the stem and root collar in place and pack down the original nursery plug soil with your finger. If the original peat moss in the plug is exposed to surface air, it will dry out faster than the surrounding soil.

Be careful to plant each seedling at the proper depth. The root collar must be level to one-half inch below the surface.

